

SANPETE COUNTY.

Population, 1900 10,312
Assessed valuation, 1900 \$3,830,738

Gunnison, Dec. 11.—Some two years only had elapsed, after the arrival of the hardy pioneers into the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, ere their footprints could be traced trekking southward into what is now known as Sanpete county. Its early settlers were men and women inured to the hardships of colonization, who shared the vicissitudes of hunger, poverty and privation during those troublesome times when the savage Indians made almost nightly raids upon their homes, as well as upon the little substance which they then possessed.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

During the month of November, 1849, a small colony of about fifty families, headed by Isaac Morley, Seth Taft, Chas. Shumway and others, pitched camp in what is now called Mantle City, the county seat of Sanpete county. That winter was probably the most severe of any from that time to the present day. The snow fell to such a depth, and the weather was so extremely cold, that they almost despaired of ever living to see another spring. Many of the cattle possessed by the settlers, perished from cold and starvation, and were eagerly devoured by the half-famished Indians, whose wickiups stood in close proximity to the camping place of the suffering colony. Notwithstanding the great severity of the winter, and the scarcity of food, the people enjoyed good health, and when spring came, they prepared for the planting of crops. The primitive dugout, wagon box, and rude hut, constituted the abodes of these people, and were not abandoned until better homes could be erected.

When springtime came, and the settlers began to plow, the emaciated animals were inadequate to the task. Much difficulty was experienced in the planting of crops, such as were needed by the people for the sustenance of life.

TROUBLESOME INDIANS.

Old Chief Walker, head of the Sanpitch Indians, was a most turbulent and troublesome factor in those early days, and while professing friendship to the people, was in reality the real instigator of much of the warfare and bloodshed of those early days. During the early settlement of the county, the pioneers had to endure much trouble from the savage red men, and during the year 1853, a few settlers who had located at Mt. Pleasant and Spring City, had to leave their homes, and again seek shelter and safety at Mantle, where better facilities for protection were offered to the women and children.

It seems almost incredible to the present day generation that our fathers and mothers had to grind their flour and corn meal in large coffee mills or between two stones used for that purpose.

GROWTH AND RESOURCES.

It is not our purpose to go into detail and narrate more of the early history of the county, but to note a few facts concerning its growth, resources and development.

Turning from the picture of fifty years ago, from the log hut, the dugout, the sage brush waste, the coffee mill, the horse lights with the Indians, we now look out upon a picture of beautiful farms, made rich by the toil and hardships of these heroic pioneers; we gaze upon elegant homes, upon magnificent school buildings, churches and public places of amusement.

We behold the telegraph, carrying its messages upon the wings of the wind; the telephone as it conveys the sound of the human voice from city to city; the iron horse, as he plows his way through the land, laden with the products of nature, once unknown to the gardens of the sage brush desert.

GRANARY OF UTAH.

Sanpete county may well be termed the "Granary of Utah," along with her sister county, Cache. In the north, her products in the cereal crop are second to none in the State, producing wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and fruit in abundance. Thousands of bushels of grain is exported annually, and the flour produced by the flouring mills finds a ready market, not only at home, but in places remote from the State.

BIG SHEEP CENTER.

Probably no other county in the State has so many sheep owned by its citizens as has Sanpete county. It is estimated that not less than half a million is owned by residents of the county, producing about three million pounds of wool annually. Stock raising has always been one of the leading industries of the county, and today this section is noted for its high grade imported sheep as well as blooded cattle. Leading citizens in nearly every town may be found who are now devoting all their energies to the raising of only the finest and best grades of sheep and cattle. Particularly is this the case in Mt. Pleasant, where some of the finest sheep and cattle in the country are now being introduced and raised. Thoroughbred cattle are now to be found on many of the largest farms of the county. The raising of sugar beets in the county is receiving considerable attention, and recent tests show that the soil is productive of raising beets, which run high in saccharine matter. Bishop C. A. Madsen, of Gunnison, has for years advocated the raising of beets, and

his energies have never relaxed toward securing a sugar factory for this and Sevier county.

HAS EXCELLENT COAL.

Coal of an excellent variety is found in large quantities in the county, and thus the people are not dependent upon outside localities for this important product. Sanpete is an agricultural county in every sense of the word. Its manufacturing plants are yet limited, but with more capital, and a little energy many money producing factories could be started. Transportation facilities are excellent. The Sanpete Valley Railway enters the county from the west, and connects with the Oregon Short Line at Nephi. The Sanpete and Sevier Valley branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railway traverses the central part of the county and touches all the leading towns of the county, thus giving ample facilities for transportation purposes.

FINE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Sanpete county is justly proud of her excellent school system. At Fairview, Mt. Pleasant, Moroni, Ephraim, Spring City, Mantle and Gunnison large, commodious and up-to-date school buildings have been erected (or are in course of erection), and are fully equipped with all modern appliances and school apparatus. In fact, each town has a neat school house, amply large enough for present purposes.

At Ephraim the erection of the new Snow Academy will add more prestige to the education of the county. The Wasatch Academy at Mt. Pleasant has also obtained a prestige in and out of the county for its educational facilities and its able corps of teachers.

Taken all in all the people of this county have reason to be thankful for the pleasant homes they now possess, and for the manifold blessings which they have enjoyed from the time of its first settlement until the present moment of time. With an abundance of the treasures of earth the people of Sanpete county are prosperous, happy and contented.

SANPETE-SEVIER SUGAR COMPANY.

A farmers' convention held in Gunnison February 21, 1899:

Resolved—1. To organize the Sanpete-Sevier Sugar company. 2. To locate a central board in Gunnison; including, 3. vice presidents and chairmen of beet-growers' clubs in each place.

In said convention were elected a full board, with Christian A. Madsen, president; O. B. Berglund, vice president; C. A. Short, secretary, and Thos. F. Kearns, treasurer; also an executive committee, Henry Robbins, Axel Elmarson and Nels Sorenson.

Under that organization in 1899 about 200 test cases in beet growing were made in patches of from one-half to five acres, with far more success than had been expected.

Professor Luther Foster, director of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, kindly traveled through both counties, inspected almost every beet patch, and lectured in the beet-growers' clubs on beet culture.

The average result of the sugar beet crop in 1899 was:

Sugar in beet, 15.72 per cent; purity, 82.01 per cent.

Hence our experiments in both Sanpete and Sevier counties were most successful, giving satisfactory proof already the first season, that both soil and climate are excellent. The beet-growers therefore felt hopeful and encouraged to make increased effort in 1900.

In order that our farmers might be able to continue their training in sugar beet culture, and at the same time have a market for the raw product, the Utah Sugar company favored us by contracting with our farmers to raise 1,200 acres of beets this season; and Manager Babcock of the R. G. W. Ry. gave us a cheap freight at \$1 per ton from all points in the two counties.

On account of the drought only half a crop was realized, in quantity, but most surprising results in quality, viz.: Sugar in juice per cent purity; in Sanpete average, 18.44; purity, 87.74. In Sevier average, 14.79; purity, 83.21.

These results in quality were exceedingly encouraging.

At the Sanpete-Sevier Beet-growers' convention in Mantle, the 20th of November, and in Richfield, the 22nd, the beet-growers manifested their determination to enter more extensively into beetgrowing in 1901.

Manager Thomas R. Cutler offered to pay the farmers 50 cents more per ton for beets delivered in 1901. And Manager Babcock of the R. G. W. Ry. Co. extended the same rate of freight for next season also.

The majority of our beet-growers will now undoubtedly be willing and ready to contract for the necessary acreage of beets, as capital has come forward offering to subscribe means for the building of factories.

What most essentially will promote the beet sugar industry within the Rocky Mountains is the fact that both scientific data and our last two years' experience in these valleys (see above analysis), demonstrate that the sugar production in the sugar beet depends mainly on the quantity of sunlight received during its growing season. Wherever our sunny and balmy climate has been the hitherto unexplained cause of the enormous richness of sugar in our beets, raised in these two valleys, according to the above presented

analysis from the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, and so very inviting to capital.

For the above stated reasons of such exceedingly favorable soil, (see page 6 Utah Agricultural Bulletin 63), and climate for this prospective giant industry, we venture to predict that within the coming ten years, it will develop within Utah to a production of not less than 300,000,000 pounds of sugar yearly.

When our great Pioneer, President Brigham Young, built the first beet sugar factory on this continent, undoubtedly he knew well what he was doing; but adversity, mostly on account of inexperience compelled to lay it aside, and let it remain dormant until after nearly fifty years it has again

SUMMIT COUNTY.

Population.....9,439
Assessed valuation.....\$4,292,250

Coalville, Dec. 10.—Summit county was organized in the eventful year of 1861. To one Samuel Snyder belongs the honor of having first settled in the future home of the Ontario and the Silver King—that event occurring in 1853. The struggle for supremacy in the county government then could not have been very vigorous, as the county claims, for several years immediately following the organization of the county served their constituents without compensation. Property valuation at that time was low; so also were taxes.

Now Summit county has taxable property valued at \$4,292,250; the as-

essed valuation of the land is \$606,663; improvements, \$850,656; merchandise, \$215,715; cattle, \$158,425; sheep, \$28,571; horses and mules, \$50,355. There are 381,401 acres of arable and range land, the average assessed value per acre being \$2.835.

The total expenditures of the county for the present year will reach \$75,000. During the same period, \$4,000 was spent in exterminating the squirrels. Summit county is out of debt and there is a surplus of about \$10,000 in the treasury.

Many improvements of a public character have been made this year; the most surprising results in quality, viz.: Sugar in juice per cent purity; in Sanpete average, 18.44; purity, 87.74. In Sevier average, 14.79; purity, 83.21.

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Following are the present city officers: Mayor, Frank Croft; marshal, Burling Wilkins; treasurer, Alexander Wright; recorder, C. R. Jones; councilmen, T. J. Lewis, Grant W. Bullock, Thomas Copley, Robert Walker, Robert Calderwood.

Every industry in Summit county has received an impetus during the past year. The products of the farms, mills, shops and mines find a ready sale at fairly good prices. Labor is in demand and none need be seeking employment in vain.

SEVIER COUNTY.

Population, 1900 6,652
Assessed valuation, 1900 \$1,853,597

Richfield, Dec. 9.—Among the progressive and promising counties of the State must be numbered Sevier. This county, though but of medium size, and having a population of only 6,652 people, is possessed of such natural resources and advantages as to render it an inviting abode for most any enterprising citizen, regardless of what may be his business inclinations.

Though the county is peopled by frugal and industrious inhabitants, who are making comfortable livings in general, and some are laying by satisfactory competencies, there is room here for treble the population we now have, provided men of means will take an interest in the fields of speculation gorged with rich returns offered by this section of Utah.

AGRICULTURE.

The agricultural interests of the county are far from developed, there being thousands of acres of good land yet lying dormant for want of the necessary water to abate its sterility.

this line of industry is inviting almost beyond calculation.

MAIL AND TRANSPORTATION.

One train daily in each direction, north and south, and two telegraph lines comprise the mail, telegraph and transportation system of the county, but the advent of the telephone is looked forward to as a certainty within the next few months, while an electric light plant for the central part of the county is assured us with the coming of spring.

CITIES AND TOWNS.

Sevier county contains one city, six incorporated towns and five thriving settlements, nearly all of which are located on the line of the Rio Grande Western railway. The city of Richfield, the county seat, and has a population of upwards of two thousand people. Here is located the magnificent Stakes tabernacle erected at a cost of fifty thousand dollars, the county court house, costing twelve thousand dollars, and a district school house, costing ten thousand dollars. In addition to these Richfield has over thirty business houses, among which are two substantial banks, and all seem to be doing a

county will be sought after alike by the home-seeker and business man for the flattering inducements she is destined to offer.

DROWNED BY A SHEEPHERDER.

The roping contest had its still popular among the cowboys and there are indications that the sheep herders are also commencing to catch the disease. Over in Delta county the other day, during the county fair, the roping contest was one of the principal events. The cowboys of western Colorado are called "rim rockers," because of the rim rocks of the mesas that abound in that section. The rim rockers were out in force, and among the ropers were Frank Moore of Arizona, Bert Ennor of Oregon and James Ketchum, all-around cowboy experts. These men were expected to do wonders, but the first prize of \$175 was won by Albert Salisbury, a sheep herder, who roped and hog tied Fred Carroll of Grand Junction, got second prize and Frank Hopwood of Surface creek got third. The experts from abroad were not in it, and they were out in force, and among the ropers were Frank Moore of Arizona, Bert Ennor of Oregon and James Ketchum, all-around cowboy experts. 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